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# CALIFORNIA GARDEN

## IN THIS NUMBER


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By Eric Walther

LANDSCAPE ADORNMENT
By P. D. Barnhart

REPORTS ON THE WINTER LECTURE AND OTHERS BY THE OFFICIAL SCRIBE



MARCH, 1930 TEN CENTS

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# The California Garden

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# ALOES

By Eric Walther

(Reprinted from The Journal of The Cactus and Succulent Society of America. Vol. I, No. 6, p. 1-3, Dec., 1929.)

A journal intended to further stimulate interest in the cultivation of succulents may not be an appropriate place to mention it, but there are still quite a few people who think of cacti only as living pin-cushions, and of succulent-fanciers as mere collectors pursuing the cult of the unusual. It need scarcely be said that this view is not shared by the writer, being a long ways indeed from the truth, not only disregarding entirely the scientific aspects, but the almost proverbial generosity of the succulent-fraternity as well.

Another, perhaps more apt criticism often made of cacti is that they can scarcely ever serve to make even the semblance of a garden, smacking much too strongly of the desert, and negativing California's claim of being the garden-paradise of the Union. While of course no one will even for a moment advocate filling our gardens with cacti exclusively, it must be admitted that it is rather difficult to combine them with other ornamentals into a harmonious garden-picture. Still, a scarcity of water may often make advisable the cultivation of xerophytes; and it by no means follows that as a consequence we shall have to abandon all hope of the beautiful.

Many cacti bear flowers scarcely equalled in beauty by any other class of plants; and the writer wishes to use this opportunity for calling attention to the fact that there are many other succulents available, needing equally little water, more adaptable to the needs of garden design, and at the same time producing an abundance of showy blossoms. Foremost among the latter would seem to be the genus Aloe, with numerous species bearing many brightly colored flowers, largely during the winter months; and it is really surprising that, considering the ease of culture and propagation, these plants are not more frequently met with in our gardens.

No less surprising is it that of over 170 species enumerated by Alwin Berger in 1908, when he monographed the genus, only about 30 have so far found their way into more general cultivation here. No doubt many of the 140 or more species still awaiting introduction should be as showy, if not more so, than those now known here; and a few of the more meritorious species may be worth mentioning, as Aloe aethiopica, A. africana, A. candelabrum, A. capitata, A. comosa, A. dichotoma, A. laxiflora and A. marshalli. Some of these are real trees in their native home, reaching a height of from five to sixty feet, (yes, sixty); and while the latter's absolute hardiness can scarcely be guaranteed, they should thrive wherever citrus is grown successfully. Surely, here is a promising field for the plant-introducer; and the writer was pleased to note, on a recent visit to Santa Barbara, quite a number of newly introduced species in the garden of our friend Orpet, especially worth mentioning being Aloe bainesi, A. greeni, A. longistyla, A. miyriacantha, A. pratensis and A. speciosa.

The genus Aloe would seem to offer an equally promising field to the enterprising plant-breeder. When first considering this aspect of the genus under discussion it occurred to the writer whether it might not be possible to cross such divergent forms as Aloe plicatilis and A. variegata. Curiously enough, this particular hybrid actually has been known for at least 25 years, an example of it having flowered that long ago at La Mortola, and described at the time by Berger under the name of Aloe corderoyi. Work with some of the tree-like species should also be very promising, and it would not appear impossible, for instance, to cross Aloe bainesi, in its native home, Natal, often attaining a height of over 30 feet, with some of the hardier species, as A. arborescens. The visualization of a California landscape featured by trees of the general aspect and size of the common Cordyline australis, but bearing masses of showy flowers and needing much less water, is by no means over sanguine.

Interesting potentialities are also held by the demonstrated possibility of crossing Aloe with various species of Gasteria, quite a number of such crosses already being known. The two genera are evidently closely allied, and were formerly thought to constitute a single

genus. Quite a number of such crosses are grown in our gardens under various names. The least that can be said about the latter is that their standing is very uncertain, being based on very scant descriptions. This group has just been engaging the attention of the writer who may have something more to say about it soon.

A few words as to culture may be in order here. Aloes can be grown almost anywhere, but usually respond most gratefully to somewhat better soil than answers for most cacti, as long as it is well drained, appreciating also frequent watering, at least during their growing season. Usually a sunny location is to be preferred, but some of the species, especially in the warmer parts of the state, may prove to thrive better in at least partial shade.

As to the possibility of creating a successful garden-picture by the use of Aloes, the dry garden recently completed by Mr. Hugh Evans at his Santa Monica home, so well known for its comprehensive collection of choice ornamentals, may be cited, where cacti are conspicuous by their rarity.

Aside from the insiduous nematodae, and the occasionally troublesome mealybug (Pseudococcus gahani), no serious pest appears to trouble the Aloes with us, the only other insects noted by the writer being a scale (Aspidiotus sp.), and an aphis (probably Anuraphis tulipae) sometimes found infesting the flower-clusters. Possibly the peculiar sap of the plants, known to possess medicinal virtue since before Pliny's time, may be the cause of the plant's relative freedom from more serious insect-pests.

Propagation is very simple and easy, most species making an abundance of off-shoots and branches, readily rooting if inserted in the ground, preferably after having been dried previously for a little while; and other species spread by means of underground runners giving rise to new plants that may be detached already rooted. Seed is often available in quantity and furnishes a ready means of increase, and even if usually the seedlings may take longer to reach flowering age, than cuttings, some of them have been known to flower within three years after sowing. Unfortunately the various species cross very freely in cultivation owing to the intervention of the ever-busy bee, so that it is rare to obtain seed true to name from plants grown in gardens. The pollen of Aloe saponaria especially seems to enter most freely into these illegitimate unions, but many of the resultant hybrids are quite desirable plants, being often exceptionally vigorous and free-flowering. It is to be hoped though, that the owners will take pity on the poor botanist, and not expect him to have a name ready offhand for every one of these hybrids.

The following short description may serve to distinguish Aloe from the allied genera Aprica, Haworthia and Gasteria, of which more may be said on another occasion.

GENERIC DESCRIPTION: Plants usually succulent, small to large, with stem tall, or short, or none; leaves mostly fleshy, usually more or less strongly toothed, rarely entire, often blotched; racemes mostly many-flowered, only very rarely one-sided; flowers large, pendulous or spreading, more or less colored red, yellow, orange or very rarely white, usually cylindrical, rarely inflated at base and then never with the apex recurved as well; perianth-segments free or more or less connate; fruit a dry, dehiscent capsule.

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### MARCH WEATHER IN SAN DIEGO
**By Dean Blake**

In March the temperature begins to climb. The frost hazard, while much less, is not over and freezing temperatures often occur in the valley low-lands, but it is never cold enough to warrant firing in the citrus groves, and the frost season as far as oranges, lemons and grapefruit is past.

Since the establishment of the station in 1872, there has never been a March without some precipitation. The average is 1.48 inches, and the average number of days with a measurable amount is seven. Usually the rain is accompanied by strong, gusty winds which reach velocities over 30 miles per hour, and blow for several days at a time.

Records show a slight increase in cloudiness, a corresponding decrease in sunshine, and moderately high relative humidity, and there are fewer days with fog.

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**GARDENER**

Middle age man, life experience at gardening, capable, reliable, wants position in private family to take charge of the gardens, by the week or month; for interview please address Box 117-A, Pacific Beach, California, giving information in first letter.

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"Are any other members growing 'Squaw Lilies'? This is the description that caught us and our pennies: 'The Squaw Lily is not properly a lily, but a deep rooting perennial which grows on the slopes of Mt. Rainier, so is of assured hardiness. It produces three-foot spikes of white plume-like fragrant flowers in June.'—Joe's Bulb Bulletin.

"The tough, reedy plant we received is much alive (since October) but, so far, shows no sign of any new growth. Its location is sunny but damp, and we are wondering if it is placed right, and whether they have been satisfactorily grown here."—C. D. B.

### RPORT OF THE WISTER LECTURE

Wednesday Club House was filled on Tuesday night, March 4, when Mr. John Wister of Philadelphia gave us a very fine illustrated talk on roses, iris and gardens in general. He told us particularly of people in the rose world who had accomplished much for roses, Dr. Huey who introduced the Killarney to America and popularized the hybrid teas and who interested our Capt. Thomas; of Mrs. Foote who planted Henry Ford's rose garden and who is very arbitrary in her methods. He shamed America with a recital of statistics of membership in floral organizations. 110 million people in America and 5000 members of Rose Society against 40 million in England with 16,000 members in Rose Society. 25,000 members with dues from $5 to $30 per year in the Royal Horticultural Society of Britain. He showed a picture of the humblest of French cottages but with a couple of plants growing before it. He told us Howard and Smith send a train load of roses to the east every year. He spoke of the work of Robt. Pyle and Dean Hole who said if a man would have beautiful roses in his garden he must have beautiful roses in his heart. He talked of Mons. Pernet Ducher who originated the Madame Ed. Herriot rose and the Georges and Claudius Pernet roses named after his sons who were killed in the world war. He told us about the painstaking methods of the European gardeners who transmit the business to the eldest sons for generations and who send them from country to country for a year at a time to study the language and methods of other people. Well, no doubt in their painstaking way they stumble upon something superfine but so do we with our more efficient hustling bustling dash through life. The old man plods along with his eye on the goal and the young one races ahead and stops to be entertained on the way. They both arrive. We're a young country. We don't even all have sons. We can't be plodders. Our ways are different from the old ways in many cases not so good but balancing that with others much better. I'm not concerned about the garden future of America. There is plenty of leaven in America to raise the loaf. We don't need to be so intensive yet, we don't have to make our living for the next generations out of an acre or two of ground as they do in Holland.

Mr. Wister compared the great rise and slump of the tulip market in Holland in 1664 to the Florida boom and the last year's stock market crash. He told us the origin of the tulip is not definitely known . In 1554 the Austrian Ambassador saw tulips in the Sultan's garden in Turkey, obtained seed and started the mania.

Mr. Wister showed many pictures of iris and told us many things about them. He talked for nearly two hours and was so interesting that nobody was restive. His talks are informal and come from a deep well of experience and first hand knowledge. This was his fourth visit to the coast and we mutually hope it will not be his last. Mr. Bakkers took him to Rosecroft which was riotous with the bloom of primulae, nemesia and begonias and he took some pictures there. And he visited Mr. Elliott's garden across the way. Our society tendered him a luncheon at which Miss Sessions and Milton Sessions, Harold Taylor, Mrs. Tuttle and Miss Alice Lee who knew the Wisters well, made short speeches to which Mr. Wister responded with an interesting talk. Mr. Osborne, our editor, then took him to the U. S. Government Experiment Station at Torrey Pines and to see the bulb growing industries at Carlsbad. So I think we made his short stay a pleasant enough one so that he will want to come again.—N. K. B.

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### REPORT OF THE ENCINITAS FLOWER SHOW

There were many lovely flowers displayed at the Encinitas Flower Show as are to be expected in any floral exhibition. Some of the displays, however, were of more than passing interest such as the Avery Brothers design of a series of rock pools (sold to the Briggs of Briggs Floral), and Mr. Zimmermans cross-breeding of gladiolus.

Mr. Paul Avery will be remembered as the young man who gave an illustrated talk on rock gardens in January of this year. His rocky pool at the show was particularly good because it had with perfect artistry, succeeded in attaining an effect of extreme naturalness. It might have lain there for centuries. Mr. Zimmerman won the $250 prize for the best cut flower exhibit. He had a second and third generation cross between the fragrant tristis glad, a small pale yellow with Virginia red, that bright scarlet seen in florists' windows. The first generation was a creamy fragrant primulinus-like glad. The second was a pink with stripes of red and retaining their fragrance. There was also a cross between the yellow glad Souvenir and Crimson glow resulting in a small very graceful very vivid red glad. Combined National City and Chula Vista exhibit had a novel little house and garden complete with arbors and walks and won first prize in its class. The Badger-Tanner Nurseries had a lovely display representing the end of a garden walk. They had some exquisite azaleas and camellias. There was one azalea that attracted a great deal of attention. It resembled an orange clivia.

Miss Yoch got first prize with a fine begonia, azalea, camellia and general lathhouse display. Dunning-Millar had a lathhouse with some very artistically conceived color effects. There

was a mauve bird cage with gray cockatoos and beneath it a mauve centered rex begonia. There were blue birds in a dull orange cage and pale yellow ones in a blue cage.

Anent bird cages, the San Diego Floral iris section won a bird cage as a prize for the best iris display. It was an iris bordered walk leading to a green gate. Mrs. McCabe had a really wonderful and comprehensive display of uncommon and interesting cacti well arranged and deservedly taking first prize. Mr. Cornelius of Alta Cactus Nursery, Ecinitas, had a desert scene very well done with rocks and sand and cactus and even a horned skull. Mrs. Mary Gemmell had a display of native protected cactus. The Mission Flower Co, that has taken over the Otto Flower Store at 6th and B, San Diego, had a very elaborate wedding decoration which took first prize as the outstanding feature exhibit of the show. Murray Horn of Carlsbad had some of those lovely arctotis (African daisies) of many colors that make me nearly expire with envy every time I see them. The Diener Co. of Oxnard had a fine display of huge ruffled double and single petunias and to me the gorgeous orange hued poppies they originated were the most striking flower in the show. Vista had a miniature orange and lemon ranch which was very good. Miss Sessions had a nice little display with a natural tree trunk seat that was a perfect thing. I got a decided thrill from the lavender berried Eugenia Smithii with large delicately lavender hued berries. San Diego County had a neat feature display with a small pipe organ masking a radio loaned by Thearle Music Co. The Boy Scouts Camp 97, Cardiff, had a fully equipped Boy Scout tent trimmed with purple statice (everlasting) and letters B.S.C. a foot high made of French marigolds. The Tuttles who put on our iris display had interesting little rock gardens in cocoanut husks. Torrence garden club had a very nice exhibit with a huge rising sun made of calendulas in the background and primulas, azaleas, carnations, etc. in the fore. The Briggs won the first prize for the best glads with a fine collection. Otto Nursery won with the best display of potted plants and Mr. Roepke of Pacific Beach won first prize in sweet peas with 37 varieties all beautiful and luxuriant.—N. K. B.

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### NEW MEMBERS AND SUBSCRIBERS FOR MARCH, 1930

F. E. Reibold, Pasadena, Calif.
Miss Blanche Anderson, Hayward, Calif.
Harry L. Johnson, South Meriden, Conn.
Mrs. P. J. McMahon, North Hollywood, Calif.
Mr. Cornelius, Encinitas, Calif.
Hugh Deacon, Palms, Calif.
Mack M. Swain, Los Angeles, Calif.
Geo. B. Bowers, San Diego, Calif.
Paul Maiss, San Diego, Calif.

### LANDSCAPE ADORNMENT
**By P. D. Barnhart**

We of this Southland have a long way to travel before we reach the goal of perfection in the ART.

The term "Southland" is used at this time to designate that part of this coast, lying between Santa Barbara on the north, and San Diego on the south, and as far inland from the ocean, as comes under the influences of the breezes blowing from the sea.

Furthermore altitude has a lot to do with climate in the various sections of this same area. A strata of warm air, congenial to semi-tropic plants bathes the hill tops, up to an elevation of 500 feet at least. At the same time in the canyons between the hills, a strata of cold air 150 feet deep. fatal to tender vegetation abounds. A difference of 5 to 15 degrees is the record covering a period of 6 years.

Beneath the sheltering care of trees, or a lathhouse, plants too tender for the open may be successfully grown, but it is of such things as may be grown in the warm zone above referred to, that this series of articles has to do with. The close observer, whether resident, or transient, cannot fail to notice how limited is the list of plants growing in the great majority of the gardens, either large or small of this part of the coastal section of the state.

Privets, world without end. Cotoneasters easily take second place in the list. Pittosporums may be said to occupy third place, our native Cypress fourth, all of which are extensively used for hedges.

If hedges are essential to the happiness of the home maker, shrubby Lantanas, and Rosemary are infinitely superior for the purpose.

Next in order of numbers is the Italian Cypress, the most badly abused of all the subjects grown.

The Creator of trees designed this one for ornamenting the bosom of mother earth where rain is scarce, and the atmosphere arid. Because of the ignorance of gardeners this tree is tortured by being planted on lawns, or among trees and shrubs which require water for their development. Speechless, they show their displeasure with such treatment, by long willowy growths, disheveled tops and unkempt appearance. To add insult to injury the zealous gardener shears them back and ties them up as rigidly as an Indian Papoose is tied to its board.

Thank heaven there are some fine specimens of this tree in Altadena, and in Elysian Park where they grow under conditions similar to their native habitat.

The next article of this series will be devoted to trees and plants rarely met with, indeed they are found only in Botanic Gardens like those of Hugh Evans of Santa Monica, the Huntington Estate, the bard Garden of Huneme, and of Mrs. Helen Hill Werningk, West Los Angeles. (To be continued.)

Patronize the Garden Advertisers.

# The Mar. and April Gardens

By Walter Birch

In the February number of "The Garden" I gave a few general directions on preparing the ground for the Dahlia bed, but owing to circumstances that were unavoidable the magazine did not leave the press until the end of the month.

For the information for the sporting few who may (possibly?) be following these general directions, let me say that they still apply, but be careful at this time not to have any animal fertilizer in close proximity to the bulb.

The actual Dahlia planting season being now here, a few general directions from reliable sources, on planting the tubers should be timely.

Plant the tubers three or more feet apart laying them down flat. Do not stand them on end. It is well to cover the tubers with a cupful of sand to protect the eyes and growing shoots from slugs and cut worms, and possibly rotting in heavy, wet soils. Drive a stake in at planting time near head of tuber; a 1x1 inch redwood stake 4 to 6 feet high, is the best.

In heavy soils, plant tubers 4 inches deep and in light soils, 6 inches deep. Don't plant in very wet ground or the tuber will decay.

It is advisable if your soil is dry, to soak it thoroughly four or five days before planting. It is not well to water until the plant is five or six inches high unless the ground is very dry, then give but very little water. Allow the tuber to become accustomed to its new conditions.

Don't dig it up to see if it is growing for three weeks after it is planted; sometimes, owing to various causes, growth may be slow. If many shoots start up, thin them to one or two. Hoe carefully to prevent crust forming. Water by making a wide hollow cup several inches deep around the plant. Turn the hose in this cup several times a week depending on the nature of your soil and use a mulch of strawy manure to cover the ground.

If a bushy plant is desired, pinch off the top when about one foot tall. Spray plants occasionally with Destruxol or Black Leaf 40 to prevent aphis and thrip. If the leaves turn white later in the season, you have mildew. Dust lightly with sulphur on a sunny morning.

Large flowers are attained by disbudding. Three buds usually form. Take out the two smaller, when small and then take off the sprouts at the next pair of leaves. When cutting flowers, cut down to the second pair of leaves and more buds will form. In this way you will get size and length of stem. To keep a bush full of fine flowers, cut off all fading flowers and do not let the seed pods form.

Do not be discouraged if a Dahlia from any locality does not do well the first season. Many varieties need to be acclimated.

Speaking of Snapdragons, if you have any, do not neglect to spray them periodically with Bordeaux mixture to prevent rust. Once it starts, it is hard to stop it and when it gets a foothold it soon ruins these beautiful flowers. The same treatment also applies to Hollyhocks which are also a prey to rust.

The damp air and spring like conditions are acting like a tonic on most garden pests because these same weather conditions are producing such nice tender shoots on most flowering plants, making extremely enticing meals for these same pests.

You will find End-O-Pest a most reliable means of putting snails and slugs out of business, and you can buy it cheaper than most other cures on the market.

Evergreen Spray, a non-poisonous spray, is economical, easy to use and fine for most sucking and biting insects. It is one of the newer sprays and is very favorably thought of.

It is now time to begin thinking of setting out Asters and Zinnias. If you can procure plants of Giants of California Asters and Dahlia Flowered Zinnias raised from reliable seed, they are the best types to plant.

March is a busy month in the flower garden and there are many other seeds and plants that can go in, so if you are ambitious along gardening lines, there is lots of scope for your ambition.

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**NOTICE OF MARCH MEETING**

The regular monthly meeting of the San Diego Floral Association will be held in the Floral Building in Balboa Park on Tuesday evening, March 18th, at 7:30 o'clock.

Mrs. Armound Jessop has kindly consented to describe to the members the European gardens which she visited during her recent trip around the world, and to illustrate with pictures.

Patronize the Garden Advertisers.

# The California Garden

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## EDITORIAL

### THE PACIFIC SLOPE HORTICULTURAL CONFERENCE

was formed at the Annual Encinitas Midwinter Flower Show on February 19 for the purpose of promoting interest in things that grow. The large crowds attracted by the show and the high general nature of the floral exhibits excited such an interest as to cause this new outgrowth of activity. Some of the most prominent horticulturists in the western states were present and it was decided to organize an annual conference to which would be invited delegates from all horticultural societies, prominent teachers of horticulture and its allied interests and the general public. Officers were elected for the temporary organization with Arthur D. Houghton, Ph.D., F.R.H.S. etc., as president; Thomas McLoughlin of Encinitas as Secretary-Treasurer; C. G. Tanner, Horticulturist, Nurseryman, as Vice President; Committees on Invitation of Delegations, speakers, housing, and cooperation of communities, were outlined and a considerable sum of money subscribed to perfect the organization.

Favorable climatic condition in southern California make it possible to present an excellent horticultural exhibition at Encinitas in mid winter. The combination of such an exhibition and a general horticultural conference which many well known plant improvers may conveniently attend indicates what may be expected next year.

### ENCINITAS FLOWER SHOW

Some criticism has reached us that the recent Encinitas Flower Show was basically an advertising affair with too few displays from home gardens. The fact was particularly stressed that an admission was charged to see commercial displays many of which had no connection with flowers and that particularly aggravating was the din of numerous radios apparently trying to outdo one another in creating a veritable bedlam. We feel that the management deemed it prudent this first year that an admission was charged, to safeguard the financial soundness of the enterprise by selling space to commercial concerns. It is to be hoped that in the years to come the patronage of the flower loving public will make this unnecessary. We have seen this show grow from a small tent about twenty by forty feet to its present size about one hundred by three hundred and forty feet. Therefore we have every confidence that such objectional features as heretofore referred to will be eliminated in the future with the support and cooperation of the flower lovers of southern California. After all, while we associate this show with Encinitas it has been made possible only through the combined efforts of the commercial growers of this and other southern California Counties. It is our show if we make it so and every flower enthusiast, amateur or professional in this entire section of the country should shoulder the responsibility of assisting in making this unique mid-winter show finer and finer each year. Many of the professional growers are doing their part now and it is largely the amateur's interest and support that is most needed. If you are a flower lover, professional or amateur dislike the unrelated commercial elements of this show it is your privilege and perhaps your responsibility to contribute your part large or small, towards making this mid-winter flower show an outstanding accomplishment.

**Garden Contest**

Mr. Paul Tuttle, Chairman of the "Garden Contest" announces the entry blanks for this year's contest may be obtained at Dunning-Millar, Inc., 909-6th Street, Harris Seed Co. 913-7th Street, and San Diego Trunk Co., 430 "C" Street.

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"We have a lovely red lily, the bulb of which is growing cheerfully along with only the name 'Red Spider Lily' to answer to. The foliage is quite narrow, dull green, with a faint light stripe in its center. The beautiful, intricately formed flower, shown us by the donor of our bulb, was red, and not at all the shape of a real lily, yet not the web-like type of the so-called White Spider lily. Our catalogue peruser fairly aches to know this flower's botanical name, especially in order to try to obtain more bulbs of it."—C. D. B.

The red lily you refer to is probably one of the Nerines. The most common variety is Sarniensis (Guernsey lily). The Nerines as a whole are very much worth while and some of the newer hybrids are breath-taking in their beauty. They require a culture similar to that of Vallota Purpurea in that they bloom best when thoroughly established or pot-bound and well fertilized, liquid manure being ideal.—Editor.

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The Johnson Nursery at La Mesa was established for the particular purpose of growing native shrubs and plants. Their study of the habits and cultural requirements of the "natives" has been thorough. Our own Miss K. O. Sessions and other contributors have so often and ably stressed the value of these plants that we feel we are merely bringing forth new champions to further the cause of wider use of our beautiful and useful native plants.—Editor's note.

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**NOTES ON NATIVES**
**By Mrs. Howard W. Johnson**

This morning I discovered buds on the Fremontia Mexicana, and by the time this appears in print there will probably be some bloom. Then all of you who have given this lovely native a place in your gardens will be enjoying the glory that is Fremontia, and those less fortunate ones will be promising themselves the same experience for next year.

Fremontia has been aptly styled the Queen of natives. Its sturdy, conical type of bush, its small, fig-like gray-green leaves, and the marvellous profusion of bloom over a period of several weeks in late winter and spring all tend to make it one of the outstanding features in any native planting.

The bloom is exquisite. Two or three inches across, open, single, of a deep yellow, with petals of a satiny quality, rendered opaque and waxen by the denseness of the outer husk of the bud, which is streaked with crimson, the bush when in bloom presents a most impressive sight. It is precocious, blooming freely one year from planting, and should be in every garden where there is a suitable location. That is a condition that will prevent Fremontia from ever becoming a common sight with us. It likes a warm, sunny location, and while that is not an absolute essential, it simply must have the best of drainage. A sunny slope with decomposed granite soil will be a guarantee of good behavior on the part of Fremontia, and if your planting scheme permits you to place it in proximity to the Ceanothus Cyanus, you will be richly rewarded.

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**FRAGRANT GLADIOLUS**

The very thought of fragrant gladiolus intrigues the imagination. The hybrids grown by E. P. Zimmerman of Carlsbad, indicate an outstanding step in the development of the gladiolus as a garden flower. Shall we soon have a fragrant Mrs. Frank Pendleton, Prince of Wales, or Virginia? And if not, is not the first generation hybrid, a small pale cream-colored gladiolus of pronounced fragrance, an achievement worthy of comment? With fragrance and the diversity of colors and types now existing in gladiolus other garden favorites may well look to their laurels. ffl

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**VISITORS AND FACTS**

Mr. E. O. Orpet of Santa Barbara was a caller in San Diego lately. He reported the interest in succulents and cacti steadily on the increase. Mr. Stephen Vavra of Belle Air above Beverly Hills also made a short visit lately. He found a new Stretlitzia to add to his collection of seven varieties. Mr. Hugh Evans writes that the white flowering tree dahlia that blooms very late in the fall is the true Dahlia Imperialis and the lavender flowering one is Dahlia Maxoni. That the white has disappeared from Los Angeles. Cuttings have been sent to him for a new start. This Dahlia has large jointed stems which are cut down to the ground or nearly so each winter. If the joint with a few inches of stem on either side are slightly buried they will sprout and make good plants for next season.

K. O. SESSIONS.

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**THIRTY-SIX INCH FLOWERS**

There is a parasitical native plant of Sumatra whose blossom attains amazing proportions. If this flower were carnivorous of habit, it would be a terror to man and beast. This Arnoldi, as it is called by Dr. Arnold, its discoverer, measures "a full yard across," the nectar bowl having capacity of 12 pints, and a single blossom weighs about 15 pounds.

—C. D. B.

### LEAVES FROM AN AMATEUR'S IRIS NOTE-BOOK

For years I have been pasting clippings and copying notes in a handy little book that is an ever ready source of information and authority on the Iris question. I hope that by passing them on to others I can help them in their quest for knowledge of the wonders of this beautiful flower. The list of Iris terms below has always been a great help in color classification of Bearded Iris.

**Iris Terms Defined**

Pogoniris (pogon, Greek meaning beard) commonly called German Iris.

Amoena (pleasing) Standards white, falls some shade of blue or violet, but frequently with more or less white.

Germanica (of Germany) Generally shades of blue or purple.

Neglecta (neglected) Standards usually range from lavender to purple, falls of darker shade.

Pallida (Pale) Mostly tall varieties in shades of blue, lavender, and purple and often approaching red or pink.

Plicata (pleated) Standards and falls have colored penciled margins on a white ground.

Squalens (daubed) Standards of clouded shades of copper, bronze and fawn, falls darker, of some shade of purple or brown crimson.

Variegata (variegated) Standards usually of yellow, falls of brown.

It always amused me to note that the author of the list of terms did not commit himself to any definite statement but the more I study Iris the more evident it becomes that they are as illusive as a rainbow and I have always found the terms very helpful, with my own variations.

**Terms for Other Species**

Apogoniris (beardless Iris) This group includes many such as I. Fulva, I. Foliosa, Spuria, Siberica, Japanese, Evansia, Unguicularis (just our Stylosa), etc. Also Dutch, English and Spanish.

Oncocyclus (A Persian or Asia Minor native) Bearded with lips like the beardless types. Most interesting and easily grown in San Diego county. Suisiana is the well-known variety.

Regelia (Native of Turkestan- Said to be more hardy than oncocyclus but I have not had success with Hoogiana.

Regelio-cyclus (Cross of the two above) Charon and Saturn do well in Southern California. Very beautiful.

CORALINN B. TUTTLE.

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### FUCHSIAS

**By Mrs. W. S. Thomas**

A beautiful little Fuchsia, so old it is new, is owned by a few San Diegans. It is a small grower but that only proves its value since "Precious goods come in small parcels." I suspect its name—Sunray—was given because of the beautiful variegation of its leaves, pink, white, green and red. A book published in 1887 in England lists it along with many other varieties, and now comes the question, is it a real type or just a work of art from the hands of some gardener and where is its native land?

In February issue of California Garden, C. D. B. says, "The fuchsia is a native of Chili." The old Magellanica came from Chili and from this, our garden varieties are mainly developed,, but there are over 50 other varieties, coming from various countries of South America, the West Indies, Central America, etc. Mexico has given us seven varieties while Chili furnished only this one, although in three different colors, and it is sometimes listed as Macrostemma according to some authorities. Since the aforesaid C. D. B. is a personal friend, it is accordingly permissible to disagree because no feelings will be hurt.

Mr. Robinson wished us to "start some arguments to stimulate interest," hence I am making an effort in that direction, but admittedly a little fearful that our new contributor may bring forth some new "Hoyle' to throw at me.

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### HARDENBERGIAS

Hardenbergias are Australian plants that are excellent for this locality as they are drouth resistant and winter bloomers. H. Comptoniana is an excellent vine, in full bloom in March to May. Its foliage is dark green and the sprays of flowers 6 inches or more long—a fine rich violet color—like a spray of tiny pea blossoms. The vine needs a good heavy trimming when the flowering season has passed and then it makes a rapid growth during the summer—sets its flower buds in November and December, ready for the winter blooms. Owing to its good foliage and violet colored flowers it is an excellent vine near a door or gate and on the shady side.

Hardenbergia monophylla is a hardy shrub —winter bloomer like her vining cousin. Leaves are single and entire and flower spikes not over 3 inches long and are borne in abundant groups. The color of the flowers is white, lavender and light pink. This variety can be grown as a semi-vine if properly trained and supported, but it is most useful as a shrub. Young plants are in bloom now, conspicuous on the slope above the road near the cross in Presidio Park, Old Town. These Hardenbergias are called the West Australian Lilacs in their native land, Western Australia.

K. O. SESSIONS.

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# LATH HOUSE MATTERS

By Alfred D. Robinson

It had rained the night before and though the sun was warm, the paths in the lathhouse were wet, and leaves reflected the light drops of water. I was conducting some visitors around broadcasting my usual spiel and at the point when I say, "Now Ladies and Gentlemen if you will step this way you will see the very new double Chinese primroses," I rather halted in my eulogy for the poor things looked decidedly unhappy, and I swept the party along to other features. Directly I got loose I went back to my poor primroses and found them actually dry, the quarter of an inch of rain had all been directed by the leaves from the pot and not a drop went in. Might I be excused for remarking that no amount of rain will wet up all the potted stuff as the plant itself acts as an umbrella.

I am proud to record that for the first time I have carried through several Fancy leaved Caladiums, and what is more, got a few real tubers that are sending up a dozen or more leaves as a starter. These plants are so wonderful that it is well worth the extra trouble necessary with us to grow them successfully. They must have heat and moisture to start, but when leaved out last for months in ordinary lathhouse conditions. A box with a window sash covering or a cold frame raised up so that an ordinary incubator lamp can be put under-neath will give the conditions but plenty of moisture must be provided—, in fact the process is almost a steaming one. This season I am potting in a half imported peat mixture enriched with bone meal and following suggestions made in my gardening papers I shall frequently apply liquid fertilizer using my old well tried friend Floranid. By the way, many to whom I recommended this material have reported much satisfaction from its use. There is no question that rich feeding will produce best color. Some day I may be foolish enough to try some of these plants from seed.

While on the subject of heat I would like to chronicle that I have extended my incubator lamp system to the glass house 16x80 and eight feet high at the sides and find that twelve of those incubator lamps will raise the temperature ten degrees. These twelve apostles of a hotter time have been laboring just six weeks and the effect upon the plants in the house has been almost miraculous. Most of these lamps are under the benches which have extended sides six inches below the floor of the bench making a heat retaining chamber. Above the lamps is suspended the lid of a garbage can which, with its handle, is ideal for the purpose, so folks in my neighborhood had better chain the lids to their cans before placing them on the street awaiting the ministration of the two dusky gentlemen who so proudly bear off the contents. The expense of these twelve lamps burning a sixteen cent per gallon kerosene, amounts to about eight dollars a month. The refilling has to be done every other day. To finish the story, as the pin is the crux of the whole process of diapering, so the wick is the thing to be watched in a lamp. Years of incubating expensive chickens with oil lamps, impressed this upon me and I learned that the ordinarily recommended procedure of using a match or a cloth to remove the carbon or scissors to cut the burnt part was a delusion and snare,—the match of the cloth mashed the carbon down into the wick and no scissors I have ever owned would cut the wick sufficiently. The instrument par excellence is a toothbrush, it removes all diseased tissue without disturbing alignment and leaves a healthy surface for a bright warm flame. You will gather from the wording that I have had surgery and its methods discussed before me recently and emphatically.

The Tuberous Begonias must now have attention. Perhaps with no other class of those plants is the preliminary treatment so important to successful culture. It is well worth the little trouble necessary to sprout them before potting. It weeds out weaklings and saves the potting of them, and it prevents the rotting of the tardy. In putting them in flats or any shallow receptacle to start, several mediums such as moss, sand or leafmold can be used. The main point is not to bury the tuber more than half and while maintaining a certain moisture not to carry this to wetness: The first objective isn't a sprout but a root. If kept in the dark or dense shade sprouts happen very quickly, so I put mine in a fairly strong light, never sunlight however, and find that root action is at least equal to top growth. When potting always start with a small pot and not too rich a compost. It is no good trying to save labor by starting off with a big pot. I expect that lots of folks will call "Why?, to which I am forced to reply, "Ask the Begonia," all I know is that it demands a cradle, a crib and then a bed. Something of the compost.

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This wants to be coarse, nothing fine like silt or anything that will putty up. Half leafmold, just as it comes from under the oaks,—not sifted, a quarter sandy loam and a quarter gravel with a dash of bone meal and a sprinkling of charcoal well mixed. If this mixture could be made a month or more before using it would help if it were kept moist. In potting the tuber should only be just covered. The tuberous should not be grown in too much shade, — the light through a thin sheeting seems ideal. There are many reports of loss of tubers, I am expecting a Nematode complex but think that the season was mainly to blame. These plants should stop top growth about October. Where they grow them in quantity in Santa Cruz County the frost attends to this, but last year our summer extended to this January and the tuberous exhausted themselves. Don't fuss with a poor tuber if the starting growth is puny and the leaf color either yellow or a blue green throw it away and with it a lot of possible grief.

Towards the end of March all Begonias can be worked over repotted, moved and cuttings made. Give your plants something to eat particularly those in pots, baskets or boxes. Why we should have supposed that Begonias could make leaves and flowers without a meal now and then I don't know but I acted that way for many years. Now I aim to fertilize everything once a month throughout their growing season. Of course you know I use Floranid, but still people ask me why I don't use manure water, weak tea or pink lemonade. I use Floranid because I have tried it at all angles for three years and still like it, in its liquid form I can give the same strength to each plant at each application. It is comparatively cheap and quite inoffensive, I no longer judge a fertiliser by its odor.

This winter I have covered the walks in my lathhouse with the finest crushed rock and it has come to stay. It is clean, is never muddy or dusty and can be made like new with a rake in the minimum of time with the minimum of effort.

I should like to finish this by saying that Mr. Osborns first number of the California Garden was almost a disappointment to me, it was so darned GOOD.

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## DR. RAPHEL LORINI WRITES FROM ROME

I predict that the lure of Florence will prove even greater than that of Paris or Rome, and if we do not arrive in San Diego by November it will be because we are permanently wedded to Florence. When we do settle again in San Diego I intend to try to grow some fruit trees in the Espalier form—on trellis against the walls. The exhibit of such trained trees in Paris last fall was a revelation. They have perfect form, vigorous condition, clean bark, and general perfection. Such results must come from centuries of experiences handed down from father to son for generations. I learned that one of these firms exhibiting has been in existence 175 years. The dahlia and chrysanthemum shows were the finest I have ever seen. The dahlias had erect stems and graceful posture and the small flowering 'mums were particularly fine. The tuberous begonias were very fine in varied colors but the fibrous varieties were no better and many not so good as those grown and exhibited by your skilled expert Mr. A. D. Robinson. The orchids with unpronouncable names were gorgeous. We plan to visit England in time for their shows and Holland in time for the bulbous flowers in bloom.

The flower stands on the streets of Rome are very gay just now and those of the travertine step leading to the Puicinian Hill are very attractive with huge masses of mimosa, acacias, jonquils, Roman hyacinths, daffodils, snowdrops, ornithogalum, iris and other small flowers. This particular flower stand has been a feature there for a few centuries, and I recall vividly the calls I made there when about 12—59 years ago, for my daily purchases for our apartment.

I have been greatly disappointed in the scarcity and general poor quality of fruit throughout the cities visited. The fruit trees shown in the Espalier fashion were of all kinds at the Paris fall show and their highbrow fruits are known to the trade as "primeurs" or prime fruit. No ordinary mortals like ourselves could afford to pay from 50c to $1.00 for a single apple, particularly after living in California for 30 years. The ordinary fruit everywhere is wormy and full of blemishes. The grapes were alright. We have not had one really good orange.

—MISS K. O. SESSIONS.

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## PLANT BARRACKS

A South American acacia known as "Bull's horn thorn" has a most ingenious plan for guarding against foes. It is surrounded by such vast hordes of enemies that it is necessary for it to keep a standing army of its own. The branches are covered with curious hollow thorns and at the base of each leaflet is a tiny gland which secretes honey. Ants by the wholesale occupy these cavities in the thorns and use the honey. When enemy moths or leaf-cutting ants invade the tree, the ant residents pour forth and down upon the enemy like an army of warriors.

The wise acacia can afford to keep its standing army well fed and lodge, in return for such protection.—C. D. B.

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# GARDEN PROBLEMS

By Walter S. Merrill

### FLOWER SHOWS

The season for Flower Shows is sneaking up on us stealthily but surely, and it behooves us to begin now our preparations for exhibiting the treasures of our gardens to the flower-loving world, lest the big dates find us, as they have found us in the past, either too late or too early to do justice to our gardens. Just what we can do to be prepared is hard to say, but an effort even a bit too early, is surely better than nothing.

Some flowers have periods of growth so well established that, knowing the date of a show, it is easy to provide for blooms at that time. Roses, for example, will come into bloom in from six to ten weeks after the resting period. With roses, as with all other flowers grown out-of-doors, the weather conditions will make a difference; but by allowing two months of growth before the show, one is almost certain to have a good supply of blooms to exhibit. The same is true of gladioli and dahlias. Annuals are more difficult, the seasonal conditions counting so much in the development of the plants. And, in California especially, we have little or no control over the flowering periods of the perennials. They bloom when, —and IF,—the mood takes them.

By making a series of planting of seeds of annuals, you can have, in all probability, at least one batch of plants in good bloom at a given time. And such a method of planting out has the added advantage of keeping the flower beds and borders looking well over a long period, although they may never show the few days of solidly massed bloom which occasionally reward the gardener who has staked his all on one planting.

There is always some criticism of the flower show management, coming from those whose gardens are "off season". The next time that you are disappointed in your success at a show, because of the fact that your roses are all gone or your zinnias have only begun to show color, try to withhold your criticism of those responsible for setting the date until you have spent a day driving through the different sections of the city and looking at the many gardens in their varying stages of development. You will see how difficult it is, in this land of long growing seasons, to set the exact date which will meet with the approval of the majority. The only exhibitors who do not criticise are those fortunates who find their gardens at the peak of floriferousness at show time;—and they keep mighty mum about it.

When the day comes for cutting, be lavish of time and material. On the morning of the show get up MUCH earlier than you think necessary,—for the delays may be many and you must not be rushed,—cut many more flowers than you can possibly use, and cut them with much longer stems than are needed for good arrangement. Plunge the flowers into buckets or tubs of cold water, up to their necks, and set away for two hours in the dark. Transporting the flowers to the show is a problem; but if they are kept from the wind and light, packed loosely in roomy boxes, with their stems well filled with water, most varieties will suffer little damage. And since you have cut a generous supply, you will be able to discard all that have not arrived in perfect condition. Before arranging the flowers in vases, at the show, cut back the stems to the length desired, clean both foliage and blooms carefully, and have ample room for exhibiting them to advantage. If your space is limited, cull more severely,—for a few extra fine blooms that can be viewed without distraction by the judges are far more likely to win prizes than are a greater number, of poorer quality, crowded together. Read the Premium List carefully and follow its instructions to the letter. If three blooms are called for in a class, enter no more nor no less. Good judges will disqualify the entry at once, if it does not conform absolutely to the rules.

Get to the show early, secure plenty of vases, work without hurry or anxiety, and have your exhibits in place well before the time limit set by the rules committee. And then roam about at your leisure, watch the latecomers nervously rushing to get their precious blooms arranged to their satisfaction, and gloat over them just a little bit. That last hour before the judging begins is the very best time to look over a show. You are in that happy frame of mind when you are still confident that your exhibits are the best, you have no apologies to make to anyone, and—this is a mean thought—you may see that a competitor has made an arrangement that suggests to you a possible improvement in your own, with ample time to make it.

Be a good sport at all times. Judges are

human,—not infallible,—and they can award but one blue ribbon in each class. If you do not get it, try to see in what way your entry is less admirable than the winner. Remember that we are all prejudiced in favor of our own exhibits. As in our children, so too in our gardens and flowers, we can discern virtues which are visible but faintly, if at all, to others. Resolve to have better success at the next show, and don't forget to give to your successful rival the acclaim and glory which you ,in his place, would so much enjoy.

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## WATER PLANTS AND OTHERS

**By Mrs. W. S. Thomas**

Questions are beginning to come in, as to the time of planting, and it is surely no desecration of the Bible to say, "Now is the accepted time."

They are all starting to grow—even the Tropical Lily bulbs—and if you are intending to try any Lotus, it will soon be too late to move them with safety. They are now starting new leaves, and are most finicky of any of the water family about any change of residence after shoots have grown.

I am often asked "Must water-lilies grow in water?" Yes, if you want a real growth, and blooms. They will live, half dormant, in mud. I heard a traveler from South America state that during the dry season there, those immense Victorias were in dry mud, so hard it was cracked. But since the native element of water lilies is water, we will not refuse it. Almost all living plants—and animals—have a personality which must be recognized, for good results. And a foreign element sometimes gives strange results. When I first came to the Pacific Coast I was an ardent admirer of seashells, especially the Periwinkle—otherwise, the Litterina—but how to get out those little wiggly animals and have a clean shell? I was picking away with a knife when a wise old Californian told me to put them in fresh water and they would leave their shell. They did. They really drowned in the fresh water I suppose while hunting for their beloved salt. But what a good illustration of nature's fight against intrusion.

A neat little bungalow will often have some Italian Cypress grown up under the wide overhanging roof, trying vainly to keep on growing up, as it should. Then next you pass some banana shoots on the north side of a house in a cold windy place, actually shivering for the warm sunny location which is their birthright. And soon you will see ferns in the hottest place on the south side of a house. One often wishes for a Humane Society for prevention of cruelty to plants. And it is so easy to find out their natural wants and give it to them.

## REPORT OF THE FLORAL MEETING
**Feb. 18**

**The Mediterranean Fruit Fly**

I was so dog-tired that but for my duties as scribe I never should have dragged myself to the meeting. I had seen the pesky fly at the County Fair; I had read and heard so much about it that the thought of another hour on the subject seemed just too much for my weary self and I expected to be hopelessly bored.

But from the moment Mr. McLean began talking I forgot my weariness and listened with all of my one good ear and complete attention, completely fascinated. So many things were presented about the fly and its eradication that were new and interesting that it proved quite absorbing and particularly as it was delivered in a concise and entertaining way in Mr. McLean's exceptionally clear, resonant voice.

That pest of pests, is a prettily marked small fly that attacks over two hundred (200) species of fruits and vegetables such as tomatoes, eggplant, peaches, prunes, pears, oranges, grapefruit, etc., vitally important to our health and pleasure.

In most cases the adult female stings only ripe fruit; the green peach is an exception, lays 10 or 12 eggs which in 4 or 5 days become maggots, as many as 70 being found in one grapefruit. Soon after infestation the fruit falls and the maggot works its way out of the fruit and burrows deeply into the ground whence it emerges as a fly. Its food is nectar sap or honey dew from insects.

Our country was the last to be attacked. It is most prevalent in the Levant. It is in Argentine and Brazil. Twenty-two counties in Florida are infested, Orlando being the center of the plague. It was discovered on March 30 of last year, identification made at Washington April 6 and the work of eradication begun at once. Seventy per cent of Florida's citrus crop was in the area infested with the fly, and many hundreds of thousands of boxes of citrus fruits were destroyed, either by incineration, or by live steam or by covering with oil and burying. The trees were then treated with arsenic sprays.

If 100 acres of trees had one infested fruit * * * the entire crop of the 100 acres was destroyed in the process of the eradication work, but no trees in cultivated areas were destroyed, $4,000,000 were spent in the eradication of wild hosts in the same swamps, such as wild orange, persimmon, guava and palm trees. Incidentally 10,000 rattlesnakes and copperheads were killed by the eradication crews.

In spite of the fact that Florida was unnecessarily long in discovering the fly and therefore thousands of boxes of fruit were sent out full of the larvae, particularly into the southern

states, no evidence of their existence has been found elsewhere. Florida fruit had not been permitted to enter California for years before the fly was discovered because of the presence of citrus canker there. There is no evidence anywhere of the fly at present as it is dormant in winter, but the most rigid vigilance should mark this summer. It is of the utmost importance that Congress finance the eradication project still further.

Mr. McLean after his absorbing talk showed us slides of groves in Florida and of seas of fruit about to be destroyed and the machinery employed thereto. In California, nearly every citrus grove has a resident owner. In Florida the opposite is true, hence there are many badly cared for groves.

It seems to me the first step towards eradication should be for the government to pay the owner full market price for the loss of the fruit. Then he would be the government's best assistant and ally. In Illinois tubercular cows are killed in toto and the owner is paid the highest market price for a well cow. How gladly therefore does he call in the inspector if his cow shows disease symptoms when if not paid he would except in rare cases shut his eyes to the danger as long as he could. A little explanation to people at the borders of states as to why they are asked to give up their fruit would be acceptable to the tourist and end in his cooperation rather than his resentment and evasion.

Many flowering shrubs were on display at the meeting and Miss Sessions told us many interesting things about them. There was a pot of billbergia nuttans lovely to behold with its pink sheathed blue and green and yellow drooping lilies. And there were the following with some of Miss Session's comments: a lovely yellow Dutch Iris from Mr. Tom Hamilton's garden, Solandra Guttata, cup of gold, that glossy leaved vine that bears enormous chalices of creamy yellow. Miss Sessions says there is a slenderer flowered one more beautiful in shape growing in the Coronado Hotel court.

Wygandia macrophylla with nettle-like coarse leaves and a huge heliotrope like blossom. It belongs to the same family. Leptosperum chapmani, a lovely shrub covered with small pink buds and flowers; Leucojum vernum, Snowflakes, like a large lily of the valley with a green dot in each scallop; French pussy willow with large fat pussies, brought in by Miss Sessions and distributed for cuttings: Acacia pubescens one of the most beautiful. Miss Sessions saw some in a florists window in New York and ordered a few sprays but casually and fortunately inquired the price which proved to be $10.00, out of the question for a Californian to pay unless he were unusually homesick. Miss Sessions now owns two of the trees and promises us some seeds as soon as she has them. She has one in partial shade and one in the blazing sun and the latter is not so luxuriant but more attractive than the shaded one. Acacias need sharp trimming after blooming. Campsidium, a very fast growing vine with white bell flowers; it stands drastic pruning. Bridal veil genista looks like a white waterfall with its green reedy foliage and exquisitely small prolific white pea like blossoms on drooping stems. It does very well near the sea, holds the drifting sands together and finds ready sale in the markets. Acacia cultriformis, a knife-edged acacia which is a shrub with wider leaves than most acacias; Acacia rostolifera a fine big round shrub; Acacia buxifolia in bloom now near Marston's point in the park and very beautiful. Choysa ternata, Mexican mock orange slow growing with shiny light green leaves and fragrant orange blossom-like flowers, hardenbergia white and purple-flowered vine and shrub grows from seed and has nice sprays of pea-like blossoms. Diosma Alba, breath of heaven, does well near the sea makes a good low hedge, foliage small and fine and pinily fragrant with myriads of white star-like flowerets. It is lovely on terraces. Nemesia, annual, vivid little flowers making heavenly borders at this time of year, Grevillia Onothopus (3 pronged) from the shape of the leaves, like a bird's foot; Mexican daisy erigeron trifolium, very good perennial for banks; Giant agathea not so dainty as the smaller one and exaggerating its fault of backward curving petals, an exquisite blue daisy with yellow center. I know of no flower with quite that shade of baby blue. It's stalk is unfortunately so short and easily broken it is difficult to use in bouquets. Coffee and cakes completed a very good eveneing.—N. K. B.

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### PANSIES

To the old French botanist, the droop of the pansy, or Heart's-ease, suggested the fancy that the flower was pondering on its stalk, so he called it pensee—"thought"—and we call it pansy.

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### GIANT GRASSES

There are over 200 species of bamboo. growing chiefly in tropical countries. Some species grow to a height of over a hundred feet, and are a foot through at base.

The Chinese eat a stew containing the tender shoots of bamboo. The blanched tips are also served like asparagus, or boiled with rice, or pickled. The seeds of some are like wheat and are mixed with honey, or are roasted. Nut-like ones of another sort are roasted.

Bamboo is one of the most wonderful of Nature's gifts to uncivilized man. Houses, furnishings, and utensils are made of it.—C. D. B.

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### ACACIAS

March is the month when the Acacias are most abundantly in bloom, and are well worthy of observation now. San Diego has a very good supply of varieties and each year a few new ones creep into cultivation. One hundred and twenty-seven varieties are listed in "Guilfoile's Australian Plants."

Last year Mr. Morley exhibited some potted plants of new varieties, which he had ready for planting out in Balboa Park. The following forty are known to the writer to be established plants in San Diego: Acacias Acinacea, aneura, armata, Baileyana, binervata, calamifolia, cultriformis, Cyanophylla, cyclops. dealbata, decurrens, elata, elongata, extensa, floribunda, longifolia, macredania, melanoxylon, nerifolia, pubescens, pendula, penninervis, podalyraefolia, prominens, pruinosa, pycnantha, riceana, saligna, siculiformis, suaveolens, verticellata, discolor, linearis, Betchei, pulchella, visdula, leptoclada scoparium grandiflora, Dietrichana.

The following varieties should be more abundantly planted: pruinosa and elata for their large growth and handsome shape, elata particularly handsome both in foliage and size. For the low growers, shrubs in fact, good flowering sorts—acinacea, pubescens, siculiformis, calamifolia. A. suaveolens is a late introduction but very promising as a cut flower, color light yellow and very fragrant as its name indicates. A. lophantha is a very worthless sort and should not be in cultivation here. The young plants are promising but its life is short and its bottle brush like flowers are worthless, its seed are very abundant and grow easily.

K. O. SESSIONS.

### CACTUS VARIETIES

Speaking of Cactus, George Wharton James in "The Wonders of the Colorado Desert," Vol. 1, says:

"I once asked an old Colorado Desert prospector how many varieties of cactus he was familiar with. "By gosh," said he, "you city fellers have no idea how many kinds we got. I know every one of 'em. There's the 'full of 'stick everybody,' 'the stick and stay in,' 'the 'the sharp stickers,' 'the extra sharp stickers,' 'big stickers,' 'little stickers,' 'big and little stickers,' 'stick while you sleep,' 'stick while you wait,' 'stick 'em alive,' 'stick 'em dead,' 'stick unexpectedly,' 'stick anyhow,' 'stick through leather,' 'stick through anything,' 'the stick in and never come out,' 'the stick and fester cactus,' 'the cat's claws cactus,' 'the barbed fish-hook cactus,' 'the rattlesnake's fang cactus,' 'the stick seven ways at once cactus,' 'the impartial sticker,' 'the democratic sticker,' 'the deep sticker,' and a few others."

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### ACID SOIL TURNS HYDRANGEAS BLUE

Experiments by W. W. Wiggin, floriculturist of the Ohio Experiment Station, have shown that the reaction of the soil is closely connected with the growth of hydrangeas and their color, an extremely acid soil turning the flowers blue.

Hydrangeas have been grown, both in field and in greenhouse plots, that range from very acid to very alkaline. The dark green foliage and best growth were secured in the most acid plots. The color of the blossoms was changed to blue, however, by the acid conditions. A moderately acid soil reaction gave good green foliage and growth, but the color of the flowers was true to the variety.

As a result of these tests it is evident that hydrangeas prefer an acid soil. An alkaline soil can be changed to an acid condition by the addition of aluminum sulphate, the amount depending on the soil and the amount or organic matter it contains.

Aluminum sulphate in normal amounts will not injure the plants, but in too large quantities it will change the flowers to blue. Only the white and light pink varieties make good blue colors. The dark pink turns to a very poor color. The aluminum sulphate can be mixed with the soil before potting or watered into it after potting—Pacific Rural Press.

### HONEYSUCKLES AND WISTARIAS
**By John A. Armstrong**

The sweet fragrance of the Honeysuckle is the theme for many songs and stories, and in California we have many opportunities to place them over arbors, fences, and rock walls, while they are at their best clambering over rocks, stumps, and as a ground cover. There are literally hundreds of varieties of Honeysuckles; evergreen, deciduous, climbing, and bush, but the best kinds for California are evergreen. Halls Japanese Honeysuckle is a most useful vine, growing very rapidly and its long twining shoots make a dense curtain of foliage in just a few months. In the spring it is laden with sweet-scented white flowers which fade to creamy yellow as they age. One of the finest things about this vine is that it will grow anywhere, in any soil, in sun or shade.

**Fine for the Beach**

The Red Coral Honeysuckle is less rampant and dense in growth and the foliage is bluish green. The long tubular showy flowers of bright orange-scarlet are fragrant, and instead of blooming in one big outburst in the spring, the blossoms appear all during spring and summer. This vine is very easy to grow anywhere and is one of the few vines which thrive under the direct influence of the ocean. Then there is the Woodbine, similar to Halls Japanese, but the creamy yellow flowers are shaded purple on the outside. There is a lovely variegated form of the Halls Japanese Honeysuckle, not a sickly yellow in color, as so many variegated forms are apt to be, but with a delicate tracery of gold on the leaves which is very attractive .

**The Rampant Wisteria**

One of the most desirable vines where vigor and rapidity of growth are important, is the Wisteria, although, of course, unlike the Honeysuckles described above, they lose their leaves in winter. In fact, Wisterias often grow so fast during the first year or two that they use up all of their energy that way and forget to bloom. Do not let that worry you because they will eventually slow down and then drape themselves with their glorious pendant racemes of blue, white, or lavender. For once started to bloom they are just as prolific with their flowers as with their fresh green foliage.

**Chinese vs. Japanese**

The most common type of Wisteria is the Chinese Blue (Wisteria chinesis) with enormous quantities of lovely light blue racemas eight to twelve inches long. It blooms more freely than any other type. The Chinese White is exactly the same but with pure white flowers. Many people consider the Japanese Wisteria (W. Multijnga) to get the most beautiful of all and certainly it is most unique for the hanging racemes are often twenty-four or even thirty-six inches in length, delicate lavender-purple in color. The Pink Japanese Wisteria is the same but with pinkish-lavender flowers. These varieties do not bloom quit so young or profusely as the Chinese type but are exceedingly vigorous in growth.

Then there is one other Wisteria, not common, but attractive, indeed, with double flowers each bloom resembling a deep violet-purple rosette. The flower racemes are not long but like most Wisterias, they are sweetly fragrant.

**Wisterias as Bush or Bower**

If it is desired to have Wisteria cover large surfaces, it is well to tie into the proper places the long, creeping shoots in spring and summer. The Japanese frequently train the vine to follow the eaves all the way around their low, one-story houses so that the edge of the roof is smothered in foliage of blossoms hanging in unbroken masses two or three ranks deep. It is not generally known that by consistently pruning Wisterias to a height of six or eight feet each year, the trunks will stiffen and they will shape themselves into a broad head completely draped in spring with lovely blossoms which seems to be even larger than normal. The more you cut back a Wisteria the more it blooms.

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### THE TREND IN ORNAMENTALS
**By C. A. Thompson, Executive Secretary, Pacific Coast Association of Nurserymen.**

Evergreens predominate in the forestry on the Pacific Coast and therefore this class of flora naturally forms the basic element in ornamental plantings to harmonize with the verdure of nature. The environments especially in districts west of the mountains, favor the growing of the most tender varieties of evergreen trees and with green lawns in evidence throughout the year this restful color is fundamental in our landscape work and home yard plots.

It is now generally recognized that the sombre effect of evergreen flora is much enhanced in beauty with more colors interspersed

and that is accomplished by selecting some of the numerous varieties of broad leaved evergreen flowering plants, deciduous flowering shrubs, perennials, especially bulbs and to some extent, as may suit conditions, annual flowering plants.

In evergreens there are a few classes, with a considerable number of varieties in most of each, which are suitable in plant ornamentation. Among these are the Cypress, Junipers, Arborvitae, Firs, Spruces, Hemlocks, Cedars, Yews and Pines. In their native form these classes, including varieties of each, are difficult to transplant and subject to overgrowth as set for ornamental purposes, within a few years, therefore are trained in nurseries for shape and habit of growth to best serve for domestic ornamental plantings.

The two popular, outstanding and attractive classes are the Cypress and Arborvitae of which there are a number of varieties in each class, designated as Retinosporas, a term signifying resinous canals of the seed. These trees are in juvenile, or dwarf form, this habit it appears, has been developed by persistent compact growth of the roots for such time and extent that when propagated from rooted cuttings the dwarf form is continued in resulting mature trees. They are thus made suitable for planting close to buildings and in places where the larger growing types would not be suitable. In the Cypress class are two beautiful and popular varieties, the Alumi and the Erecta Viridis, now abundant in the nurseries and offered at special prices. They should be included in all general selections to be made in ornamental trees.

People are learning more about the types suitable for each particular place in the home yard. Care is to be observed to plant the pyramidal( columnar and other tall growing types where they will not obstruct the light or hide the attractive features of the building, in the course of a few years after planting.

The present trend in ornamental plantings is to use more of the low growing, broad-leaved evergreen floral plants, as facers or in suitable position in connection with the tree type of evergreens. Among them are: Azaleas, Abelias, Barberry, Cotoneaster, Daphne, Firethorn. Heath, Heather, Honeysuckle, Laurustinus, Eugenias, and Pernettya. Also the various deciduous flowering shrubs including Spireas, Deutzias, Forsythia, Lilacs, Syringas, Weigelias, etc. Rose beds are always in order with increasingly more attention every year regarding selection of varieties to please in color of flower to harmonize with tastes and surroundings.

During the past two years the bulbous flowering plants are coming into prominence with a rush, here to stay and multiply because so many kinds are easily grown to afford a high measure of satisfaction compared with cost and care bestowed while the numerous classes and varieties make it possible to have a wealth of bloom in pleasing colors in the open about ten months in the year.

Of all classes of plants which appeal to childhood and youth, and for educational development in plant life, among the children of school age, none surpass the bulbous collections, because they respond so readily to efforts applied, keeping up, anticipated interest from time planted until bloom.

Color effects from combinations and arrangements of positions in plants are being given increased attention. In the open with evergreens predominating, a pleasing blend of colors in flowers is not difficult to obtain. Where contrast is desired to make striking effects, it is suggested that harmony by contrast may be produced by placing yellow opposite purple, red opposite green and blue opposite orange. The tints and shades of each of these primary colors may be arranged in graduated connection with each of them for softened harmony.—Pacific Rural Press.

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**LIST OF SHRUBS CONTINUED**

Owing to a lack of space the alphabetical list of trees and shrubs of Golden Gate Park will be continued in the April number of California Garden.—Assistant Editor.

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